

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of April 2, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that each of the printhead modules have a plurality of printing nozzle rows which span the relatively different printhead widths such that the page width printhead defined by the adjacent modules has printing nozzle rows formed by the adjacent rows of the adjacent modules, where there is at least one row for printing each ink color of a plurality of ink colors, and to clarify that the compensated displacement is between the respective nozzle rows of the adjacent modules. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in section 7.1.2 entitled "Bi-Lithic Printhead" at page 28, in section 9.1 entitled "Printing Rates" at page 42 and in sections 32.3, 32.4 and 32.4.1 respectively entitled "Data Rate Equalization", "Dot Generate and Transmit Order" and "Dual Printhead IC" at pages 518-521 of the present specification;

dependent claim 3 is amended to conform with amended claim 1; and

dependent claims 2 and 4 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by newly cited Madeley (US 6,637,860) in view of any one or more of previously cited Teshigawara, Haflinger and Tayuki, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been further amended to make it clear that the relative displacement compensated for by the printer controller is the displacement between respective printing nozzle rows of the abutting printhead ICs of different widths, where the misaligned rows are for printing the same ink color. In this way, the printhead appears continuous across the page width (see section 7.1.2 entitled "Bi-Lithic Printhead" at page 28, in section 9.1 entitled "Printing Rates" at page 42 and in sections 32.3, 32.4 and 32.4.1 respectively entitled "Data Rate Equalization", "Dot Generate and Transmit Order" and "Dual Printhead IC" at pages 518-521 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Madeley merely discloses individual printheads, one each for printing a different ink color, which define either a partial page width printhead or a pagewidth printhead. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Madeley that several printhead for each ink color are to be adjacently arranged to form the pagewidth printhead such that relative displacement of nozzle rows for the same ink color can occur (see col. 7, lines 32-58 and col. 12, line 64-col. 13, line 20 of Madeley).

Further, Teshigawara merely discloses a scanning recording head in which the black ink nozzle columns are longer than the other colored ink nozzle columns. As can be seen from Fig. 4 of Teshigawara, these different length nozzle columns are arranged as a scanning recording head, not as a page width printhead (see paragraphs [0002], [0048], [0050] and [0051] of Teshigawara).

Furthermore, both Haflinger and Tayuki are also merely directed to scanning printheads (see paragraphs [0007], [0008], [0029], [0030] and [0034] of Haflinger and abstract of Tayuki), and therefore do not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in the Madeley and Teshigawara.

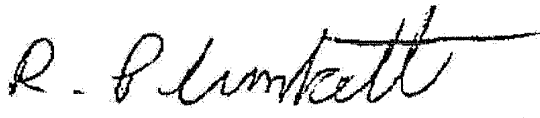
It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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